



US-12 Improvement Study Newsletter

Issue No. 1

March 2002

US-12 Improvement Study Illustrative Alternatives Presented at Public Meeting

Improvements to the US-12 corridor within Pittsfield Township have been under consideration for many years. In July of 2001, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) initiated the US-12 Improvement Study. This study seeks to identify transportation improvements that will upgrade this important east-west trunkline between the east city limits of Saline and Munger Road.

On March 19, 2002, MDOT will hold a public information meeting regarding this study. Residents can come and learn about the Illustrative Alternatives and provide their input. The meeting will be conducted using an "open house" format, providing citizens the opportunity to speak one-on-one with MDOT officials and study team members. No formal presentations will be made, so please feel free to attend either session at your convenience.

History of the Study

Over the past ten years, numerous studies have been conducted along this portion of two-lane US-12. In 1991, MDOT initiated a study to improve US-12 but was forced to terminate the study in 1994 due to budget constraints. In December of 2000, MDOT studied and concluded that a five-lane road would be a feasible option from the City of Saline to Munger Road in Pittsfield Township. That study included several different cross-sections and alignments. All of the findings of these previous studies have been incorporated as a base starting point in the development of the Illustrative Alternatives.

Study Process Overview

In accordance with State and Federal law, MDOT is required to identify and assess the impacts of potential improvements to the US-12 corridor following the guidelines of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This process uses a phased analysis to reduce the number of alternatives by progressively subjecting each alternative to a more detailed level of analysis. The current **Illustrative Alternatives** developed to date will be refined using public and resource agency comments as well as further traffic, engineering, social, economic, and environmental analysis. A short list of **Practical Alternatives** will then be developed. These Practical Alternatives will receive additional refinement based upon more detailed analysis and public comments. Ultimately, a **Recommended Alternative** will be developed based upon extensive engineering and environmental analysis, and the public and agency comments received throughout the study. Public consultation is a key part of the entire planning process and opportunities for public input will occur throughout all stages of the project.

US-12 Improvement Study Public Meeting on Illustrative Alternatives

Open House Format

(no formal presentations will be made)

March 19, 2002

3:30-5:00 p.m. and 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Pittsfield Township Offices

6201 Michigan Avenue

Purpose and Need for the Study

The purpose of the US-12 Improvement Study is to identify solutions that will:

- reduce current and future congestion within the study area, and
- provide viable and safe access to the existing and planned residential, commercial, institutional, manufacturing and other study area facilities.

The needs that have been identified in the US-12 Improvement study area are focused into four categories: 1) capacity; 2) continuity; 3) roadway safety; and 4) growth and economic development.

How do I get involved?

A comprehensive public involvement plan has been developed to ensure the public is fully integrated into the decision-making process. Public participation activities for the US-12 Improvement Study will provide residents, public officials, business and property owners and other stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the proposed alternatives and provide input throughout the study. To achieve this objective, a variety of public outreach tools are being used including: public meetings, newsletters, stakeholder meetings, a toll-free telephone information line (1-877-238-8712), and a web-site (www.mdot.state.mi.us/projects/us-12saline). Your study comments can be submitted by any of the following means: attending one of the public information meetings, visiting the web-site, calling the toll-free information line, or sending your written comments to:

Mr. Jose Lopez, Public Hearings Officer
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa Street
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Comments on Illustrative Alternatives should be received by 29 March 2002.

Upcoming Schedule				
Practical Alternatives Development	Practical Alternatives Public Hearing	Recommended Alternative Development	Recommended Alternative Public Meeting	Study Completion
Spring/ Summer 2002	Fall 2002	Winter 2003	Spring 2003	Summer 2003

Illustrative Alternatives Under Consideration

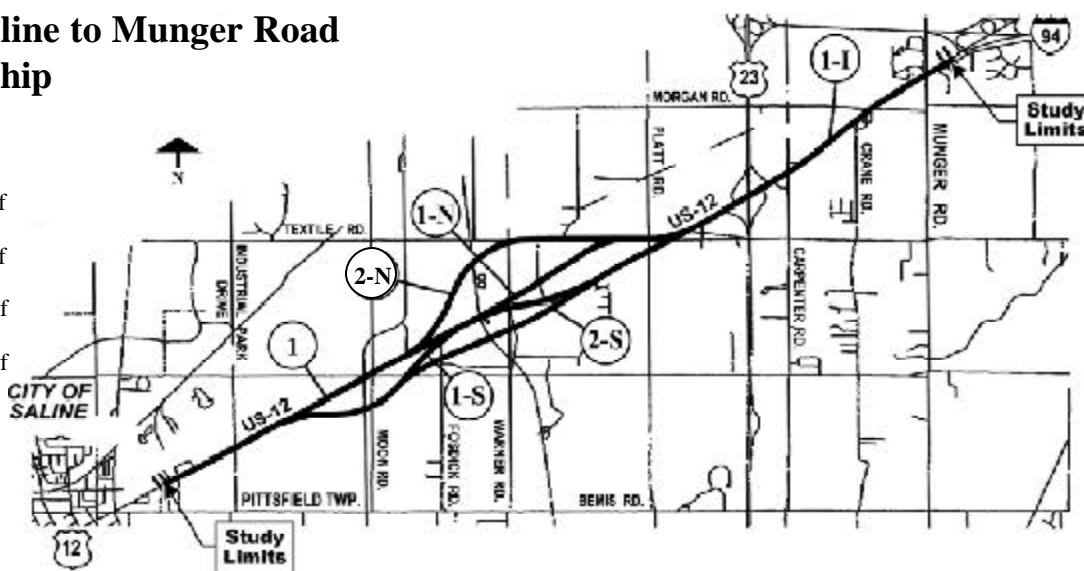
MDOT is considering many different types of improvements as part of the US-12 Improvement Study. Based upon the information collected from current and previous studies, focus group meetings, and the study goals, a set of Illustrative Alternatives has been developed. Your input on this initial set of alternatives will be used to further refine the alternatives into a set of Practical Alternatives. Initial alternatives under consideration include any one or combination of the following:

- “No-Build” alternative, which means no new construction other than routine maintenance;
- Travel Demand Management (TDM) which consists of strategies that reduce the demand on a roadway, including ride sharing, park-n-ride lots, improving mass transit and non-motorized facilities such as bike paths;
- Transportation System Management (TSM) which includes implementing small-scale roadway improvements such as traffic signal improvements, turn restrictions, or adding turn lanes; and
- Several “Build” Alternatives.

The alternatives shown in Exhibit 1 are the initial “Build Alternatives” under consideration.

Exhibit 1: Illustrative Alternatives for US-12 from Saline to Munger Road in Pittsfield Township

- 1 Improvements on existing alignment
- 1-N New road segment north of existing alignment
- 2-N New road segment north of existing alignment
- 1-S New road segment south of existing alignment
- 2-S New road segment south of existing alignment
- 1-I Improvements on existing alignment (US-23 Interchange configuration is also under study)



US-12 Improvement Study
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